

Abstract

New and useful constructions for an airbag cover and housing, and new and useful assembly technique for coupling the airbag housing and cover to form an airbag module, are provided. According to the present invention an airbag cover and housing are configured so that the cover is tightly fit over the housing as the cover is coupled to the housing. The housing has an array of hooks and retainers, each formed in one piece with the housing. The hooks and retainers are oriented toward each other and are configured to: (a) enable the cover to be tightly fit over the housing; (b) capture a portion of the cover between the hooks and the retainers; (c) prevent over travel of the cover during coupling of the cover with the housing; and (d) retain the cover securely coupled to the housing during deployment of an airbag from the module. Additionally, the configuration of the housing provides flexibility in the manner in which the housing can be formed, because it enables the housing to be formed e.g. as a metal casting, a metal stamping, and a molded article.